A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 26. 1712.

THE Poſſeſſion of this Age will, no doubt, be the Abhorrence of the next, eſpecially that part of it, which is now the conſtant Practice of both Parties, *viz.* To believe nothing they do not like, and to hear none but the Perſon they approve: If a Man writes to this Age, it is not now enquir'd, *What does he ſay?* But *who is it ſays it?* Not, Is the Thing true? But do you like the Man that ſpeaks it? ——— Thoſe therefore that were firſt afraid of being Convinc'd of the Truth of what I have ſpoken in this Paper, took right Meaſures with me, and with their own People alſo, *viz.* —— Firſt blaſt the Man; ſay, that he is gone over, that he has forſaken his Principles, that he is directed and ſupported, and receives a Penſion from ſuch and ſuch a G——t Man for Writing; ſpread this over the Nation, and you need give no other Anſwer to any Thing he Writes——As to the Truth of it, proving it, or making out any Circumſtance of it, it is not of one Farthing Conſequence, there is no manner of need of it, nor are the ſtrongeſt Evidences againſt it, of any Force with them: This is their Way with me, and I cannot but divert myſelf ſometimes, to hear theſe bright Politicians talk, and their Way of Management, when

when they have a Mind to have a Book they don't like, call'd mine — *I know it by its Stile*, say they, *it is his Way of Writing*; and another guesses by the Way of Printing; and thus Twenty Tory Books are call'd mine, which I have no manner of Knowledge of, or Hand in——— Well, *on the other Hand*, I find them reading such a Paper, and such a Paper, and Caressing it and Applauding it, and Quoting it, nay, upbraiding me with it, as an Excellent Piece, and yet that Piece has been of my own Writing——— Can any Man but laugh at these wise Judges of Stile, or would put any Value upon the Censures they pass? For my part, I pursue Truth between all violent Extremes, without regard to Censure or Reproach, much less to Slander and Malice; Time and their own Experience, will one Day open their Eyes.

I have obtain'd the Indignation of those I speak of, because I cannot say as they say; I cannot say it is no hazard to the *Protestant Interest*, to give the whole *Spanish Monarchy* to the Emperor, and *that I am sorry we have no more Kingdoms to give him*; tho' this be the same Imperial Power, that but a few Years before, the same People were for having the *Turks* tear to pieces; and full heartily did I hear them Curse the Elector of *Saxony*, for Marching with a *Protestant Army* to the Relief of *Vienna*; afterwards the King of *Sweden* was Celebrated to be the Christian Hero, to pull down the Emperor, *but now*, because it suits our own Party-Interest, all the *Protestant Princes* of *Germany*, just as the *Dissenters* have been at Home, are to be Sacrificed, to make this Imperial Man a Persecuting Monster, like his Ancestors; And what's the Pretence of this? *The weakest that ever was heard of*, just as much as they have for their new Dealing with *Scotland*, That he may be a Match for *France*; as if there was no making the *Protestant Interest* a Match for *France*, but *a Popish Fox* must be set up to keep these *Protestant Geese*: This Ridiculous Notion I have oppos'd, and shall never, I hope, be Threatened or bought off from it—— If ever I am, let this testifie against me, that I act against my Conscience and Principles, against Knowledge, and Sin against Light, to which degree of Impiety, I bless God I am not yet arriv'd.

Having said this so openly, and thereby angred the People I speak of, sufficiently, I turn next, to declare myself on the contrary Extreme, which are now too fatally pushed forward by another Party among us; and these are, the breaking in upon our Allies Abroad, and breaking Faith with our United Brethren at Home, and our base Compliance with the Projects of declared Enemies; and if these People think I am blind to the furious Measures of a profess'd *Jacobite*, *High*, *Tory Crew* among us, who would not Ruin themselves only, but also the whole Constitution, they are equally mistaken; I lament that any Men of Honest Principles should think themselves oblig'd to embrace and fall in with such, from the View of their own, or the Nation's Safety: I think no Necessity can excuse, no Exigence justifie, either the Morality or the Prudence of forsaking and Sacrifizing Friends or Principles, for what they call Self-Preservation, no, not for the Nation's Preservation; and that the Practice is the Height or Extremity, of *doing Evil that Good may come*; and I seriously declare, I believe these joining with God's and the Nation's Enemies for help, as it has brought a Blow upon one part of the Nation already, will, e're it is over, involve the rest in terrible Distractions; one Necessity of doing Evil is the Cause of another, and the same Necessity which one Side weakly pleads for Betraying and Abandoning the *Dissenters*, is a much juster Plea for others to work by Hands, which they would not otherwise Employ; thus *the Offence must come*, but *wo be to them by whom the Offence cometh*; and the first false Step is the Original of all the rest.

But to leave this dark and Melancholly part, which all honest Men mourn for, let us come to the main Point: The *Jacobite Party*, who think now is their Time, and nothing can be deny'd them, are driving furiously after their usual rate, *nor shall it fail of*

of the usual Issue, viz. *Their own Ruin*, the Nature of the Thing tends to it, and indeed *all Precipitations* issue in a blast upon the Originals, how many they may involve in this Ruin with them, God only knows; they are now pushing two Articles, which visibly tend to the general Confusion: 1. A Breach of the Union with *Scotland*; and 2. A Quarrel with the *Dutch*.

I'll speak to them both with as much plainness as I can; and first as to the *Dutch*; —I shall make no Scruple to allow, in Compliment to *Parliament Veracity*, that the *Dutch* have, as all the Confederates have been, deficient in their Quota's of Troops, Ships, &c. I leave Room here for any just Vindication to be made by or for the *Dutch*, as the Case may bear; but as the true Intent and Meaning of all *Parliamentary Enquiries* into Grievances, is to redress them, prevent the Injury, and the like, and no more, so I must say, he that would go farther than a Just Satisfaction for the Injustice, has a Design of Mischief to his Country: The Right View of these Things, is to obtain a more exact Compliance for the future, and a Reparation for the past, this is the most that can Honestly be Inferr'd, nor does the Parliament offer at any Thing farther; he that aims in this at a Rupture of Peace and Friendship with the *Dutch*, breaking off from our Confederacy with them, and at last a War against them, is, and must be an Enemy to the Queen and to the *Protestant Interest* of *Europe*: There is a manifest difference between enquiring whether our Confederates do fairly and justly by us, and falling upon them as Enemies; betwixt Complaining of them and Fighting them: That we have been unkindly Treated by almost all our Confederate, I firmly believe, and cannot but wonder to see any Body willing to have it go on so; but that for this Reason we must fall off from, or out with these Confederates, is no Consequence at all; and those that aim at a War with the *Dutch* in this, are in a *French* and *Jacobite* Plot, to Ruin the Confederacy and Embroil this *Protestant Nation* in Blood; nor can I believe that any one Concern'd in the Government can be in such a Design; or look upon those that are, with any other View.

As to the Union with *Scotland*, the manifest Designs to Ruin and Destroy the *State Presbyterian Settlement* there, involves these People also of course against the Union; the first Step they have taken, is for a Toleration, in which the *Jacobites* are fallen in their own Snare, and since the Abjuration is fastned upon them by the House of Lords, as express Praying for the Queen was before by the House of Commons; they repent that they ever desir'd such a Bill, and are now as willing to have it be destroy'd, as ever they were to have it brought in; *for I must say this for the Scots Jacobites*, they are so much Honester than the *English Jacobites*, that they cannot abjure the *Pretender* and pray for him all in a Breath; drink his Health, and then pray for the Queen; swear to the Queen and pray for her Confusion at the same Time, *as our English Jacobites* do every Day, and as Dr. *S——ll* himself *has done frequently, as may be prov'd upon him, whenever he dares to stand the Test of it*—— But in *Scotland*, really the *Jacobites* are fair Enemies, and own their Principles; they will not Abjure the *Pretender* or Pray for the *Queen*; nor have they done it in one in ten of all their Meetings in *Scotland*, and in those where they did, few went to hear them; therefore, as I said, they see they are now fallen into their own Snare, and in the Pit they had digged for others, and to avoid it, they would be glad to have the Bill drop'd now, for they see it will break them all to pieces.

To this end, they are now big with a new Project of getting another Amendment to the Bill, viz. *To have the Presbyterians abjure the Covenant*, a Thing few here understand, and which I verily believe there are an Hundred Thousand People in *Scotland* would be burnt alive, rather than do; who yet are as faithful Subjects to the Queen, as any Prince in the World can desire to have — Now that this, *if Attempted*, is only a Design to have the Bill drop'd, any one may know, because it is what they know

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the *Parliament* of *Britain* can by no means do, as being expreſly againſt the Act of Union, which has theſe Words in the laſt Church-Act, made alſo a part of the Union Act, *viz.* " And further, her Majeſty with " Advice aforeſaid, expreſly Declares and " Statutes, That none of the Subjects of " this Kingdom ſhall be liable to, but all " and every one of them, for ever free of " any Oath, Teſt, or Subſcription, with- " in this Kingdom, contrary to, or incon- " ſiſtent with the aforeſaid true Proteſtant " Religion and *Presbyterian* Church Go- " vernment, Worſhip, and Diſcipline, as " above Eſtabliſh'd, and that the ſame " within the Bounds of this Church and " Kingdom, ſhall never be impos'd upon, " or requir'd of them in any ſort.

Let thoſe that read this Clauſe, tell me how a Teſt of Renouncing or Abjuring the Covenant, can be put upon the People of *Scotland*, and when they have put it, *if ſuch a Thing can be*, let them tell us how they will bring the People in *Scotland* to do it; ſome Thouſands were Murther'd in the late Reigns for refuſing it; and if you were to bring on thoſe Bloody Days again, it would be all to no purpoſe, unleſs you can Extirpate the very Race from the Earth, which I both hope and believe God will never put into your Power.

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